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Agenda item 60 (a)
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

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Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/141, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint for a period of three years a Special Representative on violence against children and requested the Special Representative to report annually to the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council.

2. The Secretary-General has undertaken broad consultations with all relevant United Nations actors, including through the Inter-Agency Group on Violence against Children, regarding the establishment of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.

3. The terms of reference of the Special Representative have been approved, consistent with resolution 62/141. The Special Representative will be appointed at the level of Assistant Secretary-General and will report directly to the Secretary-General. The Office of the Special Representative will be located in New York and provided with administrative support by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The Special Representative will chair the Inter-Agency Group on Violence against Children. In accordance with the terms of resolution 62/141, the position has been established for a period of three years. It is to be funded from voluntary contributions.

4. A number of well qualified candidates have applied for the position and the process of establishing the short-list has been completed. In addition, a letter has been sent to the chairpersons of the five regional groups soliciting further recommendations of qualified candidates. Determined to fill this post without further delay, the Secretary-General has set up an interview panel to provide him with a final short list of recommended candidates. The interview panel has commenced its work, and it welcomes further recommendations of qualified candidates, even as the interview process is under way.

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